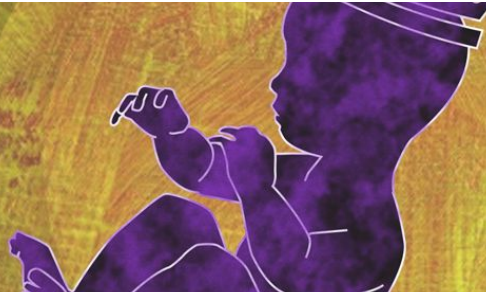


GREAT EXPECTATIONS



The narrative of scripture is punctuated with stories of birth. Every new life is special, but God's Word tells us about a number of babies who entered the world under remarkable or even miraculous circumstances, each carrying with them the hopes of others, and each ushering in the next chapter in the story of God. Their lives and ministries foreshadowed the birth of another, one who would assume the expectations of all. "Chains shall He break, and in His name, all oppression shall cease."

LIFEGroup Gathering Guide

Week 2 - Moses

Getting Started

- *Larger LIFEGroups may consider splitting into same gender groups in order to facilitate more meaningful discussion.*
- *Groups will not have enough time to discuss every question. Leaders are encouraged to skip questions and make substitutions based on what's best for their group.*

Warm Ups (15 Min)

- Everyone share a "High" from the week and a "Low" from the week.
- Does it help you to know that someone is thinking of you?

Scripture Study (30 Min)

- In several places in scripture, particularly in times of great plight, scripture says that God "remembered" His people and then acted on their behalf. Would it help you to know that God is thinking of you and your hardships are on His mind?
- Pastor AJ here. I had always viewed Moses' abandonment (in Exodus 2) by his parents as an act of defeat. However, a children's Bible that I was reading to my kids suggested that his parents acted in faith, entrusting Moses into the hands of God, hopefully plotting that Pharaoh's daughter would take interest. The [Kretzmann Bible Commentary](#) shares this view. What do you think is supported by the text?

- Moses' life can be divided into three 40 year periods. How did each of the first two periods prepare him for the third?
- The Israelites viewed Moses' birth and Israel's deliverance out of Egypt as the main Gospel event of the Old Testament. It was always featured prominently in passages like Psalm 136, in which the Israelites wrote summarizes of the Old Testament up to that point. What parallels can be drawn between Moses and Jesus. Where do they stop?
- The Israelites often whined and complained during the Exodus. Read Numbers 21:4-9.
- The Sunday School explanation of the Exodus is that it took them 40 years to get to the promised land. The Biblical one is that it would have only been an 11 day's walk, but they complained so much God chose to kill off the entire generation and start with a new one before bringing them into the promised land. Does fear or discomfort ever keep us from fully appreciating the ways that God is working in our lives and challenging us to grow?
- Read John 3:14-17.

Group Prayer (15 Min)

Trios (20 Min)

Same gender groups of three. If numbers are uneven, go to groups of two.

- **Spiritual Velocity:**
 - How did you see God at work in your life this week?
 - What has God been teaching you in His Word as you've encountered it in this week's Life Journal readings, Sunday message, or LIFEGroup study?
 - What's an area of your life in which you know you need to repent or grow? How can we encourage you?
- **Joining Jesus on His Mission:**
 - What kind of conversations are you having with non-Christians? How's your 3-2-1 challenge going? Share about connections you're building and spiritual conversations you're having with non-believing neighbors and friends.
 - List the names of non-Christians in your life that you can pray for:
_____.
 - What good can we do around here? (Missional party? Service project?)
 - How can we help each other, our neighbors, and our city in prayer?



LIFEGroup Relational Guidelines

TIME: Please be sensitive about the amount of time you share. Group time is limited.

I will seek to avoid conversation dominating.

LISTENING: We seek to cultivate a group culture in which everyone can be real and open about their struggles and celebrations. If we feel like we must normally “wear a mask,” this is an environment in which we are encouraged to “take it off.”

I commit to being an understanding listener. I will not hold side conversations while you are sharing. Before responding; I will first seek to listen to you all the way through. If your struggles are emotional, financial, legal, medical, relational, spiritual, sexual, or any other, I endeavor not to be surprised. I endeavor not to offer advice without your permission.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group.

I promise to hold your words in confidence. They stay with me.

“I” STATEMENTS: It’s easy to talk about the issues of others, but for our purposes, we want you to put yourself on the table. Try to use “I” statements rather than “you”, “them”, “they”, etc.

SELF-AWARENESS: Be aware of how you are personally affecting the environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication.

SILENCE: Can play an important role in group discussion as it allows for people to process the topic or question being considered. Don’t always jump right in - give people a moment.

CONFLICT: We will resolve conflict biblically. When conflict or sin issues between group members arise, we make sure to honor God and each other in the ways that resolve issues. The following are a few key Scriptures in this regard:

- If someone sins against you - *Matthew 18:15-20*
- Restoring someone in sin - *Galatians 6:1-5*
- Forgive a sinner - *Colossians 3:12-13*

Reconciling differences - *Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 7:1-5*